Procedure for Awarding Book stalls

4481. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the procedure adopted for awarding bookstalls at Railway Stations;

(b) whether Government propose to change the guidelines in this respect to include more categories of persons to be considered for the purpose;

(c) whether Government have discretionary powers to award such contracts, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Allotment of bookstalls is done by the zonal Railways after inviting applications from the eligible categories *viz.* unemployed graduates, their co-operatives, partnerships associations and co-operative societies of actual workers and vendors. Selection is made by a committee of officers as per prescribed procedure and guidelines. However in case of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. M/s. Higginbothams Ltd. and Philanthropic Societies Religious organisation allotment is done at the level of Railway Board on recommendation of zonal Railways.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Checking and Testing Facilities for Imported Genetically Modified Food or Crops at Scientific Institutes

4482. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not well equipped to detect or make risk assessment of genetically modified food or crops that many have been clandestinely imported within the country due to non-availability of data;